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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**Press Release**

Presented in Partnership with 89.7 FM WNKU

**Panel Discussion at the Main Library Recounts Greatest Moments of  
“Cowboy Copas & Golden Age of Country Music” - April 25, 3:00 p.m.**

April 9, 2009 - Popular in the late '40s, Honky Tonk singer Cowboy Copas made his comeback in the early '60s before he died in a tragic plane crash that also killed Patsy Cline, King Artist Hawkshaw Hawkins, and Copas' son-in-law, Randy Hughes, who was Ms. Cline's manager. Today, more than 45 years later, his crowning achievements in Country music still live on. To pay tribute to his remarkable career, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will present a free program highlighting Cowboy Copas' greatest moments. The program will be held at the Main Library in partnership with 89.7 FM WNKU Radio on Saturday, April 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the Huenefeld Tower Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.



As part of the panel discussion, John Simon, author of the new book, *Cowboy Copas and the Golden Age of Country Music*, will speak about this Ohio native and Grand Ole Opry star. Other featured panelists include Cathy Hughes, daughter of Cowboy Copas, and Judy Perkins, who worked with Copas at WKRC and later starred on WLW TV's *Midwestern Hayride*. In addition to discussing Mr. Copas' career, the panel will cover the Golden Age of Country Music (as well as Cincinnati's contribution to that genre).

Born and raised in Adams County, Copas began his professional career in Cincinnati, performing on WLW and WKRC radio shows in the 1930s and 1940s. In the mid 1940s, he signed with King Records, giving that record label its first national hit, “Filipino Baby,” which debuted in 1946. His many hit songs led to his invitation to the Grand Ole Opry in 1948. As Nashville began to focus more on pop sound, later known as the “Nashville Sound, Copas' recording career hit a dry spell in the mid 1950s.” But it rebounded again in the early sixties, just before his death in 1963.

**About the Featured Panelists**

**Dr. John Simon, Ph.D.**, a native of Scioto County, is a Professor at both Rio Grande University and Shawnee State University, and teaches classes on the history, culture, and tradition of the Appalachian area and its music.

**Cathy Hughes** is the daughter of Cowboy Copas. She sang on several of her father's songs recorded at the King Records Studio in Cincinnati and was a regular performer for the Grand Ole Opry. She currently lives in Nashville.

**Judy Perkins** was a popular WLW radio and television star. A veteran of many radio stations in other cities, Perkins moved from Nashville in 1948 to join *The Midwestern Hayride* when that program began to broadcast on TV. Signed to Mercury Records, she released several solo singles and made duet recordings with Western movie star Rex Allen and Honky-Tonk singer Red Kirk. Later, Ms. Perkins took over Ruth Lyons' *Morning Matinee* TV show in 1952 where she appeared for many years.